

Please replace the abstract of the disclosure with the following amended abstract:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention pertains to novel insecticidal compounds derived from *Bacillus thuringiensis* strains. Nucleotide sequences encoding a Cry2Ae protein and truncated fragments ~~variants~~ thereof are provided. Further provided are recombinant hosts expressing such proteins, particularly plant cells, plants and seeds and methods of using the recombinant hosts for controlling insects, particularly Lepidoptera.